GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:219
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015
Ban on Import of Agricultural Products
Arunmozhithevan Shri A.;Singh Shri Bharat

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether some countries have imposed a ban on the import of various agricultural products from India;

b) if so, the details thereof, product and country-wise indicating the time period of the ban;

c) the reasons for imposing the ban on imports of such agricultural products from India along with the losses incurred by Indian farmers as a result thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

d) whether the Government proposes to launch a new agricultural export plan/ scheme aiming to boost overseas shipment of agricultural products from India; and

e) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 219 FOR ANSWER ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2015 REGARDING "BAN ON IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS "
(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. The European Union (EU) has imposed a temporary ban on imports of four vegetables, namely Brinjal, Snake Gourd, Bitter Gourd and Taro Leaves from India w.e.f. 1st May 2014. Saudi Arabia has imposed a ban on import of green chillies from India w.e.f. 30th May 2014. Vietnam has imposed a temporary restriction on import of groundnuts from India w.e.f. 6th April 2015.

(c) The EU has imposed a ban on import of four vegetables as export consignments were intercepted with harmful organisms (pests) such as thrips. The Agricultural & Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous organisation under the Department of Commerce, has taken up the issue of ban on exports of four vegetables with EU authorities through Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW). MOA&FW has sent a detailed action plan to address the concerns raised by EU and requested them to lift the ban. This issue has also been flagged by the Department of Commerce in various bilateral meetings between India and EU from time to time.

Saudi Arabia has imposed a ban on import of green chillies from India as export consignments were reportedly detected with agrochemicals i.e. pesticides above the maximum residue limits. APEDA had taken up the matter of the ban on exports of green chilly with Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Accordingly, a delegation comprising of representatives of Ministry of Agriculture, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visited India from 23.10.2015 to 30.10.2015. The delegation visited APEDA approved packhouses, laboratory, National Referral Laboratory at Pune, and green chillies farms at Nashik. The outcome of the visit is awaited from Saudi Arabia authorities.

Vietnam has imposed a temporary restriction on import of groundnuts from India as Caryedon serratus Olivier (living pest) was reportedly detected in export consignments. India has taken up the matter with Vietnam authorities. A delegation from Vietnam is visiting India in December 2015 to conduct onsite inspections.

(d) & (e) The Government has already unveiled the new Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 on 01st April, 2015 which aims at export promotion for all products including agricultural products. Encouraging exports of agricultural products is a continuous process. The Government is taking steps to encourage exports of agro products through measures and incentives under Plan schemes of the Commodity Boards and Export Promotion Councils. Besides these measures, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has put in place various schemes namely Market Development Assistance (MDA), Market Assistance Initiative (MAI) and Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS), Interest Equalisation Scheme etc. to provide assistance to encourage exports.
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